GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3487
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
RAIL CONNECTIVITY OF PORTS
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Pathak Shri Harin

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for rail connectivity of Bedi and Porbandar is under the consideration of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the status of the present proposal; and

(c) the details of other rail-road connectivity of ports projects undertaken in the State for the last three years and current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (b): Proposals regarding rail connectivity of Bedi and Porbandar from State Government of Gujarat were received by the Ministry of Railways. In this connection the status of the said projects is as follows:-

(i) Porbandar-Porbandar Port:
A survey for construction of new line from Porbandar to Porbandar Port was completed during 1999-2000. As per the survey report, cost of construction of 10 km long new line had been assessed as Rs.13.11 crore with a rate of return of (-) 3.55%. In view of heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, the proposal could not be considered and State Government has been advised that this being a small line Project could be taken up by the Port either itself or as a deposit work.

(ii) Rail Link to Bedi port
This is also a small link and is not viable from traffic consideration. Gujarat Maritime Board had got a study from M/S RITES. The work is to be a deposit work of the port.

(c) (1) As regard rail connectivity to ports, Ministry of Railways have taken up the following projects connected with Ports and hinterland in the State of Gujarat :

(i) Gandhidham Palanpur gauge conversion (313 kms)- completed and commissioned;
(ii) Bharuch-Samaj-Dahej gauge conversion (62 kms). - The project is to be implemented through a Special Purpose Vehicle for which Shareholders Agreement has been signed.This work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.
(iii) Bhildi Samdari Gauge conversion (223 kms) - Work is in progress and targeted for completion during 2008-09. This work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd.
(iv) Apart from the above works, new line from Surat to Hazira is also proposed to be taken up through a Special Purpose Vehicle. This work has been entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. and the alignment of the line had earlier been decided. However, State Government have now desired for change of alignment.

(2) As regards to road connectivity to ports in the State of Gujarat, National Highways Authority of India under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III has undertaken the preparation of Detailed Project Reports for two projects viz Surat-Hazira Port (NH-6 -29Km) and Kandla Mundra Port (NH-8A Extension- 73Km).